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Letter dated 24 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the joint communiqué of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sana'a Forum for Cooperation, which was held in Addis Ababa from 18 to 19 July 2006 (see annex).

It would be greatly appreciated if this document could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdullah M. **Alsaidi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 24 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Joint communiqué of the Executive Committee of the Sana`a Forum for Cooperation

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 19 July 2006

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sana`a Forum, held in Addis Ababa from 18 to 19 July 2006, was attended by Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mr. Abubakr Abdullah Al-Qirbi, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of the Republic of Yemen, Mr. Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of the Somali Republic, and Mr. Samani Al-Wasila Al-Sheikh, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan.

The Committee took note of the report submitted by Mr. Abubakr Abdullah Al-Qirbi, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of the Republic of Yemen, on the Forum's activities since the Committee's meeting in Sana`a from 3 to 4 May 2006.

The Committee discussed reports submitted on the current situation in the Sudan and Somalia, on the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict, and on regional peace and security and the concerted steps needed to strengthen security and stability in the region.

The Committee engaged in intensive consultations on strengthening political, economic and security cooperation among the States members of the Forum.

The Committee reviewed and adopted reports submitted by the specialized committees on politics, economics and trade. It welcomed the conclusion of economic and commercial agreements conducive to economic integration and requested the relevant institutions in the member States to expedite implementation of the agreements reached.

The Committee expressed its satisfaction with relations among the peoples of the Forum States and with the efforts being made to encourage business organizations to play an energetic role in promoting economic and commercial cooperation among the Forum's member States.

The Committee approved the work of the specialized committees and their follow-up of agreements reached and decisions adopted by the fourth Sana`a Forum summit. It also reaffirmed the importance of strengthening their efforts to achieve a greater degree of coordination and cooperation among the States members of the Forum.

Aware of the importance of establishing a secretariat in order to achieve greater cooperation and coordinate Forum activities, the Committee concluded an agreement to set up a secretariat of the Sana`a Forum for Cooperation with headquarters in Sana`a in the Republic of Yemen.

The meeting reaffirmed the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in cooperation with the international community and take the necessary steps for its eradication.

With regard to the current situation in Somalia, the meeting declared its full support for the decision adopted by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Nairobi on 13 June 2006, for the communiqué of the fifty-fifth meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, issued in Addis Ababa on 17 June 2006 and for the Declaration on the Situation in Somalia adopted by the African Union Summit in Banjul, Gambia, on 2 July 2006.

The Committee affirmed its commitment to bringing about a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia, as well as its respect for the sovereign unity of Somalia in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and of the African Union.

The meeting called on the international community to support the Somali Transitional Government's plan for national security, which was adopted by the Somali Parliament in May 2006 and welcomed by IGAD, the African Union and the United Nations Security Council. The meeting declared its support for the participation of IGAD in the peace process in Somalia and for the early deployment of the IGAD Peace Support Mission in Somalia, the functions of which were subsequently to be assumed by the African Union.

The meeting welcomed the statement of the United Nations Security Council concerning a review of the arms embargo in order to pave the way for the Somali Government to enhance the capacity of Somalia's security sector and security institutions for dealing with security problems.

The meeting praised the efforts of Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen, to achieve national reconciliation in Somalia, in particular through the meeting in Aden between the Somali President and the Speaker of the Somali Parliament.

The meeting commended the initiative of Mr. Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan and current President of the League of Arab States, aimed at holding a dialogue between the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and the Union of Islamic Courts in order to arrive at a settlement that preserves the unity and sovereignty of Somalia. The meeting also called on the Somali parties to put the interest of Somalia above their own agendas and called for an end to foreign interference in Somali affairs.

The meeting called on donor States and international humanitarian organizations to alleviate the suffering of the Somali people as a result of the drought.

The meeting called on the Union of Islamic Courts to abide by the agreement signed in Khartoum and stop all military actions. It also urged the leaders of the Union to continue the dialogue process with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and its institutions on the understanding that the Somali Government is the sole legitimate authority in Somalia.

The Governments of Ethiopia, Yemen and Somalia commended efforts by the Sudanese Government of National Unity to implement the Comprehensive Peace

Agreement (CPA) and called on the international community to fulfil its commitments with respect to reconstruction of the Sudan.

The meeting commended the signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement of 5 May 2006 and called on the parties to the Agreement to ensure its full implementation. It called on those who had not signed the Agreement to do so without delay and to refrain from any action that might undermine the implementation of the Agreement.

The meeting praised the role played by the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) in providing needed support and agreed that any transfer to the United Nations of the mandate of the African Union Mission would not occur without the agreement and consent of the Sudanese Government of National Unity.

Affirming the importance of a peaceful solution to the Ethiopian-Eritrean border dispute to both of those States and to the region as a whole, the Governments of Yemen, the Sudan and Somalia each called for a settlement of that conflict based on the Algiers Agreement in order to pave the way for lasting peace in the region.

The States members of the Sana'a Forum for Cooperation condemned the current escalation of violence in both Palestine and Lebanon and called on the United Nations Security Council to take the necessary steps to implement an immediate ceasefire and a negotiated settlement on the issue of prisoner exchanges between the two sides. The Security Council should take the initiative and participate actively in the quest for a final settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on Security Council resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

During the stay of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Forum States in Addis Ababa, Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, met the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Yemen and Somalia and the Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who briefed him on the activities of the Forum's Executive Committee.

The three Ministers expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the warm reception and generous hospitality they and their accompanying delegations had received since their arrival in Addis Ababa.

Lastly, the Ministers agreed to hold their next meeting at the end of December 2006 in Addis Ababa in preparation for the fifth Sana'a Forum summit.

(*Signed*) Seyoum **Mesfin**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

(*Signed*) Abubakr A. **Al-Qirbi**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen

(*Signed*) Abdullahi Sheikh **Ismail**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional
Federal Government of the Somali Republic

(*Signed*) Samani Al-Wasila **Al-Sheikh**
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan